

# **OGT Capital Request FY23-24**

## **Broadcast Educational Media Commission**

### **Statehouse Campus Audio Systems**

**Submitting Operation:** Ohio Government Telecommunications

**Project Title:** Replacement of Statehouse Campus Audio Systems

**Biennium for Submission:** FY 23-24

**Priority for Submission:** 2

**Project Description:** OGT is requesting a replacement of the entire audio system at the Statehouse campus

**Justification for this Project:** As most legislators are aware, the audio systems in the Statehouse campus are failing. Systems are not powering on, speakers in desks will blast out noise intermittently, and numerous microphones are failing. Several aspects of the current audio system in the Capitol Square buildings were installed in 1995-1996 and are either in disrepair or not functional. Much of the equipment cannot be repaired as it is no longer made. This request is to update and replace the audio equipment in every single committee room, the House and Senate Chambers, and in the public areas of Capitol Square.

There are 14 committee rooms in Capitol Square, House and Senate Chambers, as well as 2 press rooms and 3 public gathering areas (Rotunda, Museum Gallery, and Map Room) used for press conferences and events. In the committee rooms and chambers there are hundreds of audio components. The systems were not designed to have redundancy and there is only minimal connectivity between the rooms. All adjustments of the systems must be done on-site. When a system goes down this has stopped the governmental proceedings while repair or replacements are made. Failing systems have also caused feedback problems. Since 2020, all rooms have been covered by OGT/The Ohio Channel. When a member's mic goes down, it is not just the people in the room that can't hear, it is now the entire listening audience online and over the air. The current systems provide very little additional access for the hearing impaired.

The audio systems have been undergoing repair on an as needed basis but these repairs are temporary fixes as the system has long extended beyond its projected usefulness.

This project will rebuild the entire audio system to update and extend its functionality. This will update the hundreds of microphones, speakers, amplifiers, and other components in the

Statehouse, Senate Building, and Atrium. It will move the system from an outdated analog system to an all-digital system. OGT will work with the staff of CSRAB to integrate the systems into the broadcast and streaming feeds. Adjustments to the system will now be able to be performed remotely and by additional staff to help if there are problems during after hour meetings. Warranties on the systems will be able to be extended to enable faster repairs in the case of breakdowns. Legislative meetings and assemblies will be more audible and will eliminate current problems with the system. Better interconnections between rooms as well as better connections to the public and OGT will be established. Updating to current digital standards will enable quicker and cheaper expansion if the need arises. And a newer system will allow us to take advantage of newer audio-assistance technologies for the hearing impaired. Most importantly, when a member turns on the system in a hearing room, it will now work.

The amount for this repair is not insignificant but it accounts for every single audio component within the sprawling Capitol Square campus. Gradually repairing and updating the system as it is currently scheduled will take ten years and cost almost \$2 million. This major expense now will allow for the conversion to digital audio, which has been the standard for the last decade. This will enable easier and more gradual updates through the years as technology changes and improves. This investment will reduce the operational and repair costs to the current system.

Attached is a summary of the cost of replacement for most of the rooms. The rooms indicated in this chart amount to just more than \$811,000. The Senator Finan Hearing Room is not in this nor is the Senate press room and Atrium sound system. Additionally we would like to add a sound system to the Rotunda and the Statehouse crypt area, which currently have no systems. The estimated cost for these rooms is around \$288,000 for all of these areas.

**Major Components:** Microphones, speakers, amplifiers, and related installation

**Project Total:** \$1,100,000.00

**5% Contingency:** 55,000.00

**Grand Total:** \$1,155,000.00